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21 May 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*Turkey: Last night's abortive coup by former Colonel Aydemir and officers from the Turkish Military Academy in Ankara underscores again the basic instability existing in Turkey and increases the likelihood of tighter military control. Prime Minister Inonu's recent allegation that a critical political situation had developed may even have prompted Aydemir to launch his coup attempt in the hope of exploiting the apparent confusion and uncertainty within the government.

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This was Aydemir's second attempt within fifteen months to overthrow the military-supported Inonu regime. Like its predecessor in February 1962, this coup attempt collapsed within a few hours when it failed to attract any significant military support. As former commander of the Military Academy, Aydemir had strong support among the student officers and apparently also had some armored support.

Aydemir believed he had widespread support throughout the army.

During the six hours between midnight, when the coup attempt was launched, and dawn, when it apparently collapsed, the radio stations in Ankara and Istanbul were briefly occupied by Aydemir supporters and the rebels succeeded in occupying positions in government buildings in the center of Ankara. The final outcome, however, was certain once the major military units pledged loyalty to the government and the air force issued its ultimatum to give up or be bombed.

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Subsequent bombardment and strafing of the rebels, holed up in the Turkish General Staff building and the Military Academy, reportedly caused many casualties, including some among the forces supporting the government. What lasting effect this extreme action,

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[redacted] will have
on interservice relationships remains to be seen.
Relations between the air force and the army were
strained during the coup attempt last year when the
chief of the air force threatened to bomb the Academy.]

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[redacted] As of 0430 EDT, Ankara and Istanbul were under
martial law and the rest of the country was apparently
quiet. Only scattered resistance continues as rebel
groups are being sought out and arrested. Aydemir
reportedly escaped from Ankara.] [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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South Vietnam: Buddhist grievances against the Diem government, aggravated by troops firing on a crowd two weeks ago, may result in serious new incidents. Demonstrations occurred in several towns on three days last week, and are reported to have been planned for Saigon on 21 May and the central resort town of Dalat on 23 May. The government's handling of the problem so far has been inept, and there is danger of disaffection within the security forces.

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DAILY BRIEF

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